

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Technigraphics of Maryland, Inc.

University of Maryland Manufacturing Assistance Program

Technigraphics of Maryland, Inc. Reduces Press Changeover Times

Client Profile:

Technigraphics of Maryland, Inc. provides custom product identification and engineered specialty graphics to OEM's across a broad range of industries, including telecommunications, electronics, medical, and industrial controls. Products include membrane switch panels & keypads, front panels & graphic overlays, labels & nameplates, and related screenprinted and diecut parts. Founded in 1946, Technigraphics employs 26 people at its facility in Hunt Valley, Maryland.

Situation:

Due to Technigraphics' small lot, mixed model processing environment, multiple changeovers are required in the Screen Printing Department in order to meet customer demands. Significant time was required to complete these changeovers, thus limiting available production capacity. Technigraphics and the University of Maryland Manufacturing Assistance Program (UMMAP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, formerly known as the Maryland Technology Extension Service, had previous engagements involving facility layout and Lean manufacturing assistance. The company contacted UMMAP to assist in reducing the press changeover times.

Solution:

UMMAP worked with a team of Technigraphics employees to analyze and redesign the current changeover process on one screen printing press. The project involved training and facilitating the team in the changeover improvement process during a two-day Kaizen event. Together, UMMAP and the team videotaped the current process, documented and analyzed this process, and then brainstormed improvement opportunities. After the analysis phase, a new process was developed, documented, and retimed to determine the impact of the changes.

Results:

- * Realized \$40,000 in cost savings.
- * Improved productivity by 15 percent.
- * Increased production capacity by 50 percent.
- * Reduced changeover time by 67 percent.
- * Created 2 new jobs.

Testimonial:

"We have been very pleased with the products and services offered by UMMAP. They are relevant to our business and industry, and we have seen specific improvements to our productivity and profitability due to our collaboration with UMMAP."

Trey Hooper, President

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